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University of Texas at Tyler

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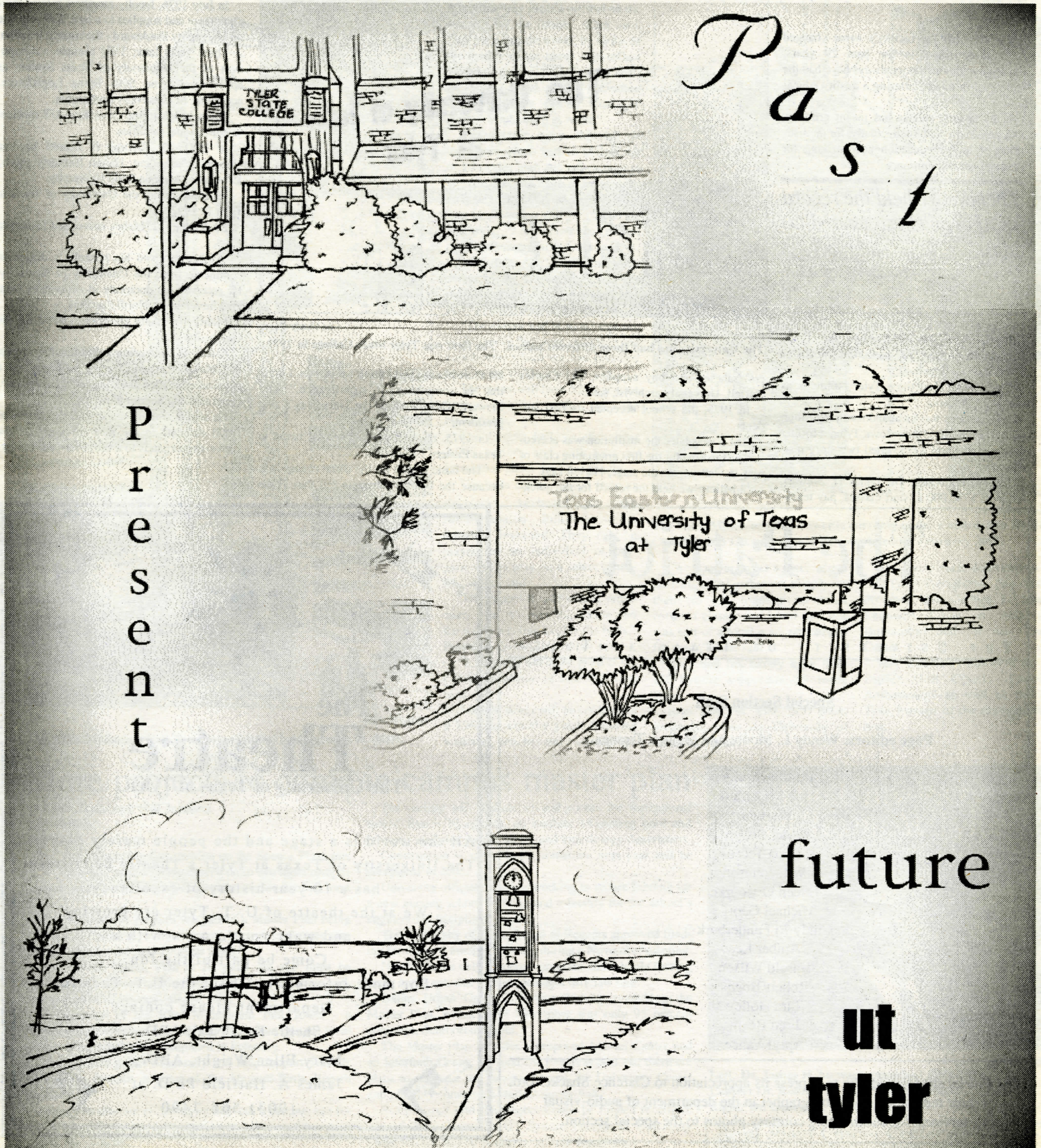
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The Patriot

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER

Special Section Vol. 1



University receives many aliases over the years

Each name has new historical significance

by Apryl Vance
Staff Writer

Although the facility's name changed three times in the past 29 years, University administrators always have had the same goal in mind - offering a quality education.

In its history, change has meant growing, both physically and intellectually, for an institution of higher education now striving for international recognition.

"I believe we held the record for the quickest accreditation..."

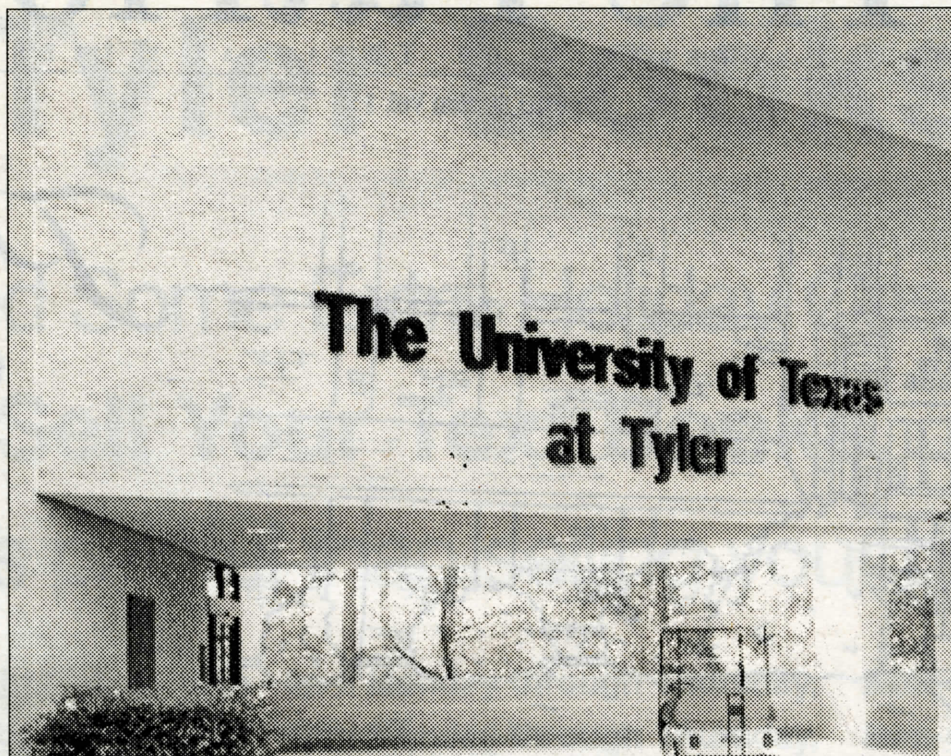
—JAMES H. STEWART

It all began in 1971 when the Texas Legislature created the institution known as Tyler State College.

The school used three Tyler buildings as temporary housing.

The campus was an abandoned junior high school just north of downtown Tyler, a former grocery store and a converted two-story residence.

Its first employee, Dr. James H. Stewart, received \$750,000 to start classes, pay teach-



—by Wendy Moore

The University has had three different names. The first was Tyler State College in 1971.

ers' salaries and buy supplies, Dr. Charles Harrell, University archivist, said.

In 1973, the school accepted its first students.

Just a year later the institution was accredited just in time for the first graduating class of nine to walk across the stage, Harrell said.

"I believe we held the record for the quick-

est accreditation and I think we still do. I think that is something of significance," said Stewart, who served as the University's first president.

In 1975, the college changed its name to Texas Eastern University.

"The basic reason for the name change was because the board of regents felt that Texas

Eastern University portrayed a greater regional significance. Tyler State College seemed more localized," Stewart said.

After changing names, TEU also changed locations.

In July 1976, faculty members moved their equipment and supplies to a new 200-acre site on University Boulevard - the current location.

Three years later, TEU became a component of the University of Texas System as approved by the 66th Texas Legislature, according to University documents.

Today at least nine cities have UT medical or educational facilities.

In 1981, Dr. George F. Hamm became University president. Hamm formerly served 19 years at Arizona State University.

He retired from the University of Texas at Tyler in 1997.

Dr. Rodney H. Mabry succeeded Hamm in 1998.

Mabry received his bachelor's degree in commerce from the University of Kentucky. He received his doctorate in economics from the University of North Carolina.

Mabry has many changes in store for the University.

Mabry is overseeing an expansion project that includes a new nursing building and a physical education building, as well as a sciences and engineering building.

He also is seeking to increase enrollment to 7,000 students in the next 10 years as the University expands to a full, four-year university.

The Patriot

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER

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The Patriot staff would like to express its appreciation to Clarence Shackelford, senior technician and photographer in the department of audio-visual services, for contributing courtesy photos to the special section.

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Development Office impacts entire campus' well-being

Administrators plan construction of \$90 million buildings and facilities projects for next 10 years

by Melissa Tresner
Staff Writer

A training status as a four-year, comprehensive university requires more than developing degree programs and hiring additional faculty members, staff and administrators.

President Rodney H. Mabry believes the University of Texas at Tyler must expand physically, as well.

In order to accommodate increasing numbers of students, Mabry and other administrators endorse adding new buildings and renovating existing ones — a plan that will cost about \$90 million over the next 10 years.

Included in some of the new buildings will be a \$36 million engineering / sciences and technology building, a \$2-\$4 million Alumni Center, and an Interfaith Center that could cost up to \$6 million.

These projects will be financially supported by various individuals and corporations as well as by state funds, according to documents obtained from the University's Development Office.

A large portion of this money will come through donations solicited by the Development Office.

Director Mary Untersee takes her

"I believe very strongly in a team effort; not one person is responsible for our success or failure."

—MARY UNTERSEE, DIRECTOR

job of soliciting major gifts very seriously.

"When I came on board, Dr. Mabry said he wanted the office of development to expand," Untersee said.

For fiscal year 2000 her office has raised \$516,000 and received pledges of \$4.5 million.

Recently she secured \$1 million for the Ralph and Mary John Spence Plaza, dedicated this summer, and so far has received pledges of \$7.9 million for the physical education center scheduled to be completed in 2003.

"Once donors have committed to the University, it's a life-long commitment," Untersee said.

Louise and Joseph Ornelas, for instance, were selected as Patriots of the Year for continuously giving to the University, she said.

They established the Ben R. Fisch Endowed Professorship, an endowed presidential scholarship and an endowed academic scholar-

ship.

The Ornelases also contributed funds to the R. Don Cowan Fine and Performing Arts Center as well as a \$1 million gift for the new physical education center.

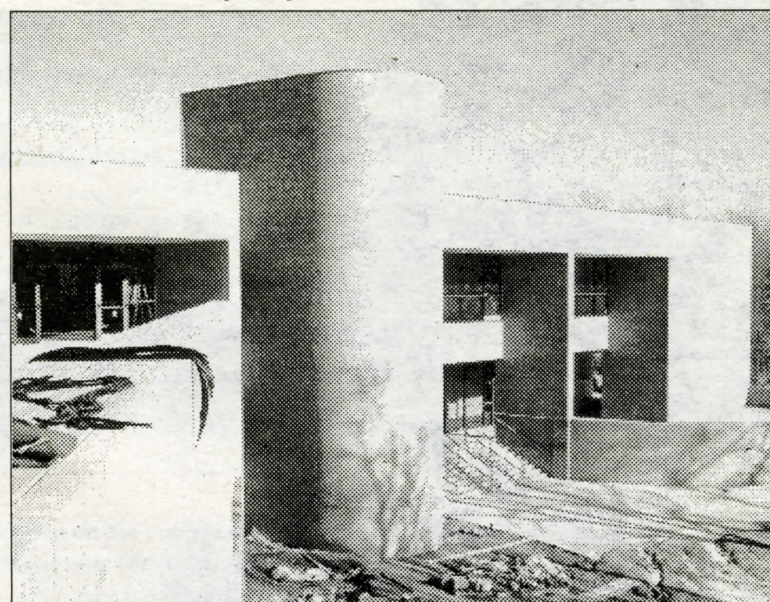
"When we hear of a need within a college, we try to match that need with a donor or foundation," Untersee said.

The Development Office is responsible for identifying potential donors and attracting interest in the University so they will want to give, Untersee said.

People who donate consistently become members of University organizations, such as President's Associates, UT Tyler Ambassadors or UT Tyler Patriots.

Untersee and her office contact people from these groups in hopes they will donate to the University again.

"Sometime they have money they want to give, but they don't know in what area they want to use it, so we



—courtesy photo

Construction for the HPR Building would not have been possible without donations solicited by the Development Office.

have to educate them," Untersee said.

P.J. Lamb, the Planned Giving and Stewardship Officer, said gifts also can be given through wills, trusts, annuities, life insurance, pensions or real estate transfers.

Untersee said stewardship is important because it helps in "building relationships" with donors.

"Donors want to know they have

made a difference in the lives of students," Untersee said.

The President's Dinner is an annual event that honors donors for their contributions to the University.

Last year the Development Office raised more money for the University than in any other year.

"I believe very strongly in a team effort; not one person is responsible for our success or failure," Untersee said.

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— by Joe McArthur

The 5.78-acre Harvey Lake was built in 1976. Its primary donor, Mike Harvey, also contributed money to Tyler's Harvey Convention Center and Tyler Junior College's Harvey Hall.

Harvey Lake accentuates park-like qualities of campus

by Robert Boggs
Staff Writer

For Steve Lucas, the campus lake is a stress reliever and a source of entertainment.

At least four times a week he's on the shore casting his lines in hopes of catching the big one.

"For me, this is so relaxing," Lucas said as he reeled in his fourth bass in half an hour.

Mike Harvey Lake, nestled in a forest of pine trees, attracts more than just people though. At least a dozen ducks can be seen year-round paddling from shore to shore searching for handouts from anyone who happens to pause just for a moment.

In the warmer months, turtles of all sizes drag themselves up onto the concrete spillway to warm themselves, slipping quickly back into the water at the first sign of any human who dares draw too close.

Students and visitors alike traverse the lake's earthen bridge hundreds of times a day and yet they may remain oblivious to its history.

For the more observant, a lone plaque on the outside wall of the Hudnall-Pirtle-Roosth Building gives them a brief lesson.

Mike Harvey, the principal donor, and the Texas Eastern University Educational Foundation Inc. gave funds in August 1976 to construct the 5.78-acre lake, which is divided into upper and lower segments.

Harvey, the vice president of the TEU foundation at the time, donated \$100,000 for the lake, which was named in his honor.

As the founder and president of Tyler Pipe Company, Harvey was well known for his philanthropy - such as donating funds five years before for Tyler's Harvey Convention Center.

A Tyler Junior College dormitory also is named in his honor.

He also served a variety of organizations, includ-

ing the Tyler Independent School District Board of Trustees, the Tyler City Commission and the City Planning Commission.

Before his death in 1977, he served as director of Tyler Bank & Trust, the East Texas Savings & Loan Association, the National Youth Foundation, Tyler Chamber of Commerce and the Texas Rose Festival Association.

Harvey, who died at the age of 78, was once honored with the T. B. Butler Award as Tyler's most outstanding citizen.

Construction of Mike Harvey Lake began about a year before his death.

Workers built two dams to separate the water into the upper and lower lakes.

Clay formed the lake basins, which were filled by rainwater.

On the first day of class registration at the new campus, it rained six inches, Dr. Lynn Sherrod, dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, said. He is one of the original faculty members who is still employed by the University.

"The lakes filled right up to the brim that afternoon," he recalled.

The lake water was a muddy brown color for some time afterward, he said.

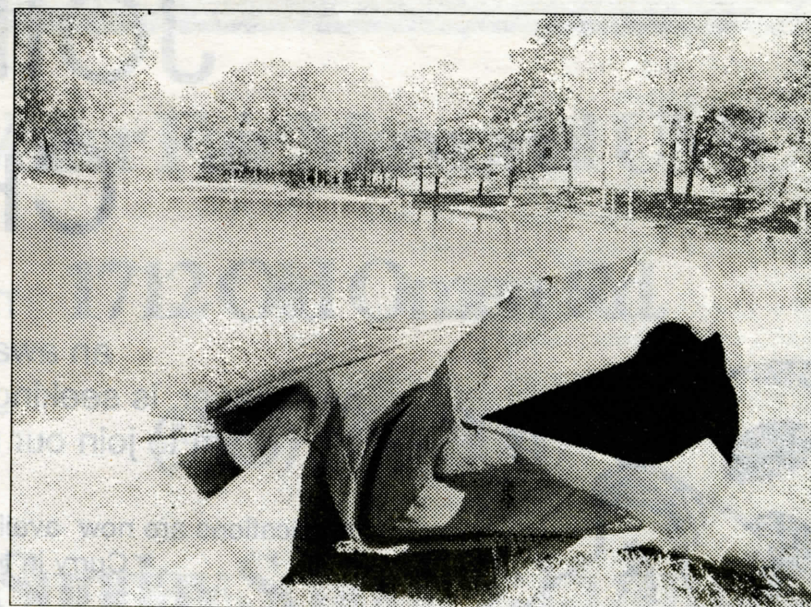
One University regent took a motorboat on the lakes and poured a five-gallon jug of blue dye into the water hoping to improve the color, Sherrod said.

Afterward, the elderly regent "was blue from head to toe," he said.

As for the water, Sherrod said it turned the most "putrid" color he could remember.

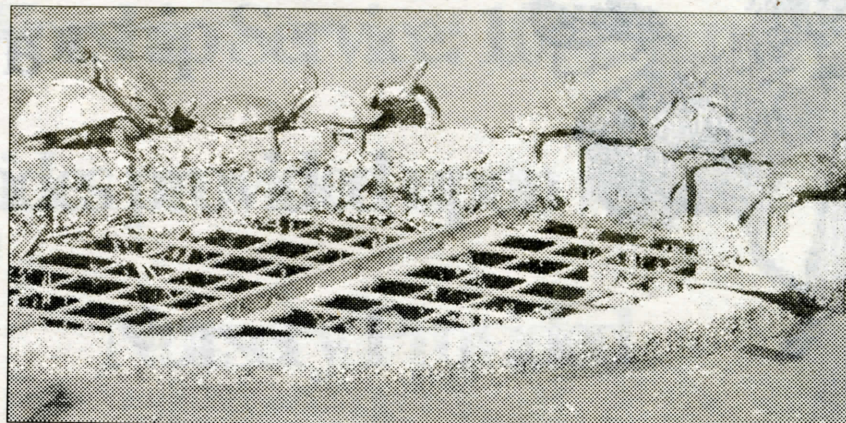
Later, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department stocked the lake with bass, sunfish, shad and catfish, Sherrod said.

The lake was built over a creek that flows into Lake Tyler. About 10 acres of woods where the lower lake drains have been designated a nature preserve in the University's master plan.



— courtesy photo

Turtles, real and statuesque, can be found at the University's Harvey Lake.



— courtesy photo

Huddling together, turtles try to stay warm during the fall and winter months.

Robert R. Muntz Library

A historical facility for student information

by Tara Holley
Staff Writer

With four stories of more than half a million volumes and computer resources, the University's library is more than just a building.

"It is a place where students can come and work together in a more collaborative effort to seek information and find the best way to use it," library Director Jeanne Pyle said.

It could not have become what it is today, however, without first constructing the building. Maurine Muntz made it happen.

Dedicated on Oct. 9, 1982, the Robert R. Muntz Library represented a lasting tribute to a man who believed in education.

Much of the building's history can be gleaned from a biography Mrs. Muntz wrote about her husband.

Muntz believed education goes deeper than just learning facts. College, he said, teaches systemized learning and organizational skills.

He recognized the value of books, and the potential for learning piqued his interest in libraries. One of his favorite places in the world was the Lyndon B. Johnson Library in Austin.

He even photographed the interior and exterior of the building, Mrs. Muntz said.

"There is always a missing link that we must look for," Muntz once said. "If we find

that, we have the whole story."

Muntz was born in Sylvania, Ohio, where his mother and father settled after emigrating from Poland in 1923.

An honor student, Muntz loved to read books. He earned a degree in chemistry from Toledo University. He was drafted into the U.S. Army and was sent to Camp Fannin near Tyler.

It was here he met his future wife, Maurine Genecov, and decided to make a home in East Texas.

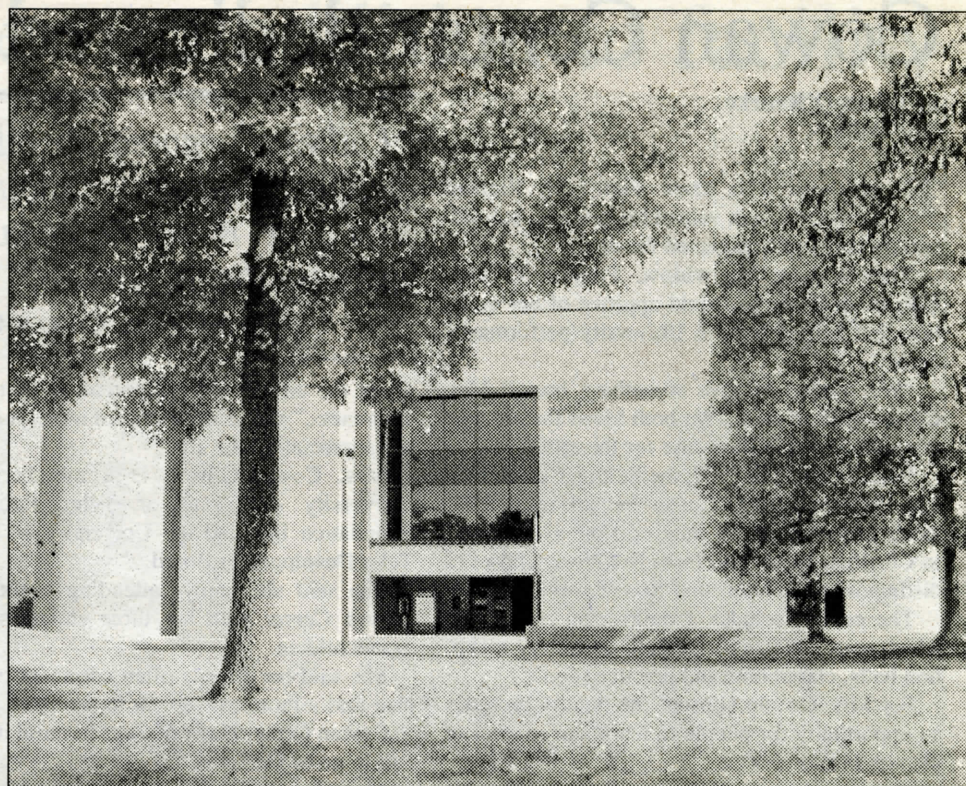
He was sent to the University of Mississippi to study mechanical engineering, but before he could complete his studies, he was ordered to return to Camp Fannin. He then was sent to England during World War II, taking part in the Normandy Invasion.

After the war, Muntz later moved to Austin to attend the University of Texas.

He then moved to Lufkin where he worked as a chemist for Southland Paper Company and eventually became a company photographer.

Muntz later moved to Tyler and began working as the head of the building maintenance department with A.S. Genecov. He studied books and observed experienced employees carefully because he did not know much about building.

Muntz gained a good understanding of the business and played a key role in the growth of



— by Joe McArthur

The library was dedicated Oct. 9, 1982 and tributed to Robert R. Muntz from his wife.

the business, Mrs. Muntz said. He later became president of BM & R Interests, a branch of the company.

Muntz lived in Tyler for 28 years with his wife and four children. Two of his children, a daughter and a son, still reside in Tyler. His other two daughters live in Houston and Austin.

Muntz died June 29, 1978, at the age of 55. Along with his other achievements, Muntz was the secretary-treasurer of Roosth & Genecov Production Company. He was a member of Temple Beth-El, Ahavath Achim Synagogue, the Lufkin Masonic Lodge, Karem Shrine Temple, and the American Orchid Society.

The elves are cheering because their work is finished early



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Cowan Center dedicated in honor of arts

by Eileen O'Rourke
Staff Writer

For those who knew him best, Richard Donald Cowan valued his privacy, but outwardly loved and respected the arts.

That is why his widow, Frances Cowan-Gibson, believes he would approve of her donation that helped build a University performance center.

"We wanted to give something back," Mrs. Cowan-Gibson said. "We both loved the arts and it would be a true showcase for the arts."

Since opening in 1997, the R. Don Cowan Fine and Performing Arts Center has attracted thousands to performances ranging from symphonies to Christian music and from Broadway shows to distinguished lecturers and Rose Festival queens.

The center includes a multi-level auditorium which seats 2,000, a recital hall, art-gallery, reception halls, classrooms and practice rooms.

For Mrs. Cowan-Gibson, the facility provides an opportunity for people to learn and appreciate the arts in East Texas.

She recalls attending the Texas Women's University Fine Arts Center as a student majoring in piano.

"I always wanted to educate people, especially

"I always wanted to educate people, especially about the arts. It is so important to increase the awareness."

— FRANCES COWAN-GIBSON

about the arts. It is so important to increase the awareness," she said. "We need more young people appreciating the arts."

Mrs. Cowan-Gibson is a member of the University of Texas at Tyler Educational Foundation Inc. and the University of Texas of Tyler Development Board.

She said she enjoys attending events at the Cowan Center with her three children and six grandchildren.

She said her friends often comment how they also find it more convenient to take their children to Cowan Center performances because it is difficult to go to Dallas.

Mrs. Cowan-Gibson, who said she has attended nearly all the performances, said it is difficult for her to choose her favorite.

"Opera singer Denise Grave was quite remark-

able," she said with a smile.

Mrs. Cowan-Gibson said she still enjoys the arts, keeping busy with a portrait class. Her work has been displayed in the Tyler Museum of Art located on the Tyler Junior College campus, and in the Meadows Art Gallery, located in the Cowan Center.

She received a bachelor's degree from TWU and earned a master of arts degree from UTT in 1985.

Cowan received his bachelor's from the University of Texas at Austin, where he was a member of the band. He received his master's degree from Harvard Graduate School of Business.

After serving in World War II as an army captain, Cowan opened an accounting practice until joining TCA Cable Inc.

He retired after 25 years of service with the company but continued to serve as vice chairman of the board and as a director. He died in 1992.

Friends said Cowan will be remembered for his dedication to many areas of interest in his life, including the arts.

"He touched many lives in many ways and many people remember him in a culturally refined way," Dr. George Hamm, former University president, said.

Braithwaite Recital Hall welcomes theater, music

by Aaron Roberts
Staff Writer

Inside the walls of the R. Don Cowan Fine and Performing Arts Center is a performance hall built out of love for theater and music.

With its hardwood-covered walls, stage and 161 seats, the David G. and Jacqueline M. Braithwaite Recital Hall is the main campus theater for student and guest performances.

"The facility has near perfect acoustics," center director Susan Thomae-Morphew said.

The recital hall was built as part of the Cowan Center in 1995 through a \$500,000 donation from Mrs. Braithwaite, Morphew said.

She also developed a permanent endowment fund for performances in Cowan Center and the recital hall, Allen Burt, the Braithwaites' attorney and the financial adviser said.

Burt said Mrs. Braithwaite donated funds because she always has had a "strong interest in theater and music."

"Most people seemed pleased with the hall," Dr. James H. Hatfield, the University's theater director said. "Often it is the most talked about space in the Cowan Center."

Mrs. Braithwaite also funded the gardens and stair-step waterfall outside the Cowan Center.

Burt said there are plans for more gifts to the University including more campus construction and scholarships.

Love of art



ADMIRE THE VIEW: Frances Cowan-Gibson poses in front of a fountain included in Spense Plaza.

— by Eileen O'Rourke

A construction worker helps with comp

Vaughn, larges

by Michael George
Staff Writer

With its 2,000-seat capacity, the Jim and Bonna Bess Vaughn Auditorium is the largest auditorium on campus.

Since its construction in 1997, the auditorium located inside the R. Don Cowan Fine and Performing Arts Center has provided a home for a variety of shows and events ranging from Broadway musicals and symphonies to commencement and distinguished lecturers.

"He is a wonderful person. He took time to talk to his patients like they were his friends."

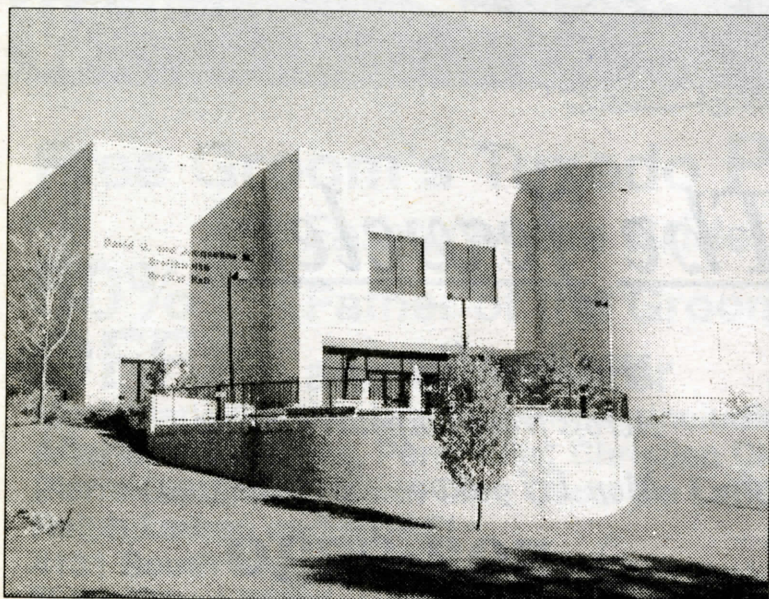
— SARAH MOTES

Dr. Jim Vaughn, an eye, ear, nose and throat specialist, and his wife donated funds for the auditorium - one of many Tyler facilities that bear their name.

A native Tylerite, Vaughn graduated from Tyler Junior College and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

He received his doctorate from

Vaughn the U Branc in 1999 cian. "He took ti like th Sarah now w



— by Joe McArthur

The recital hall was built as part of the Cowan Center in 1995. The \$500,000 construction cost was donated by Jacqueline M. Braithwaite.

VAN orming Arts TER

Spence Plaza: newest addition to facility

The new Spence Plaza opened with a splash during a private July ceremony in the R. Don Cowan Fine and Performing Arts Center.

"I express my appreciation to Mrs. Mary John Spence for her contribution of this beautiful plaza and providing UT Tyler with an endur-

"Ralph Spence, Visionary, Investor In The Human Spirit, Pursuer Of Dreams."

— PLAQUE DESCRIPTION

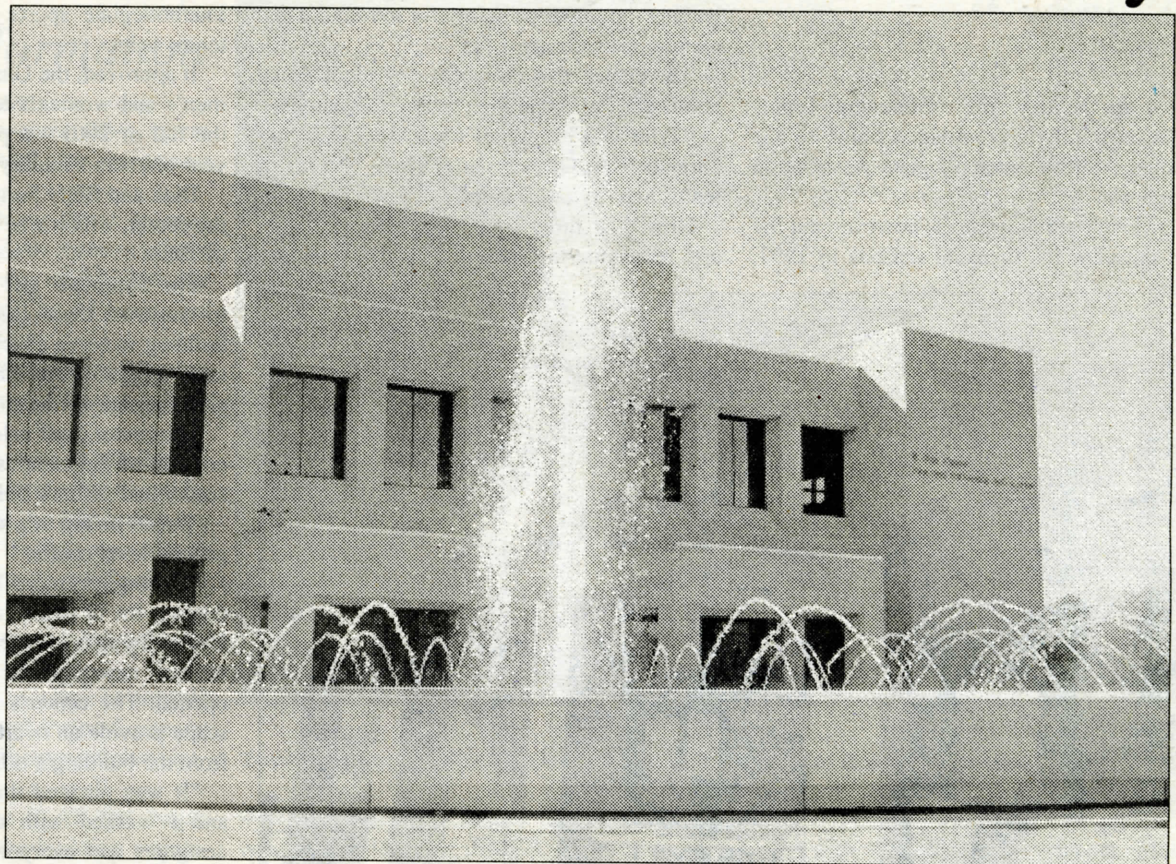
ing reminder of the many contributions by a great friend of the University," President Rodney H. Mabry said during the event.

The plaza, located in front of the Cowan Center, features a fountain and a plaque honoring Mrs. Spence's late husband.

The plaque reads, "Ralph Spence, Visionary, Investor In The Human Spirit, Pursuer of Dreams."

The dedication also included remarks from Dr. George F. Hamm, the president of the University of Texas at Tyler Foundation and former University president, who has worked closely with the Spences for several years.

Longtime supporters of the



The plaza is located in front of the Cowan Center. It features a fountain and plaque honoring Ralph Spence.

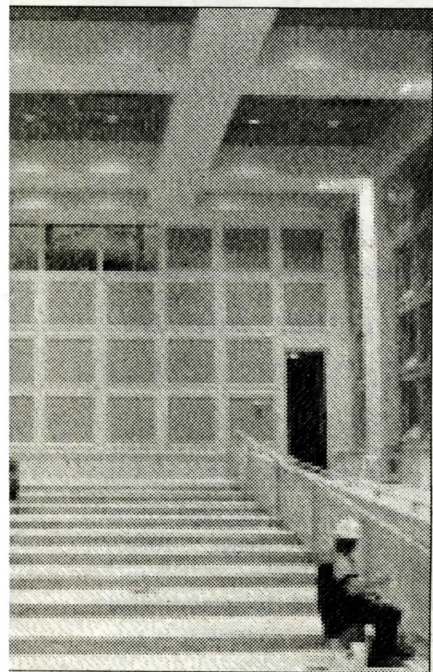
— by Joe McArthur

University, Mr. and Mrs. Spence were honored as UT Tyler Patriots of the Year in 1985.

Spence served as the chairman of the UT Tyler Development Board until his death in 1995.

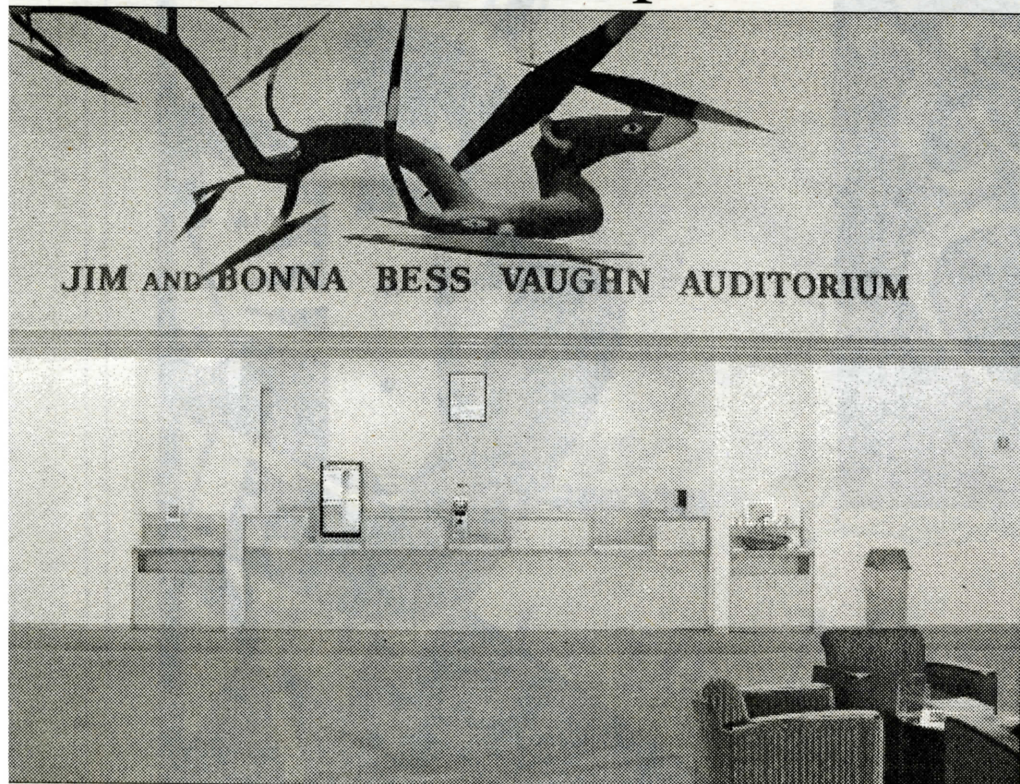
Mrs. Spence now serves on the development board, the executive committee for the UT Tyler Foundation and has served on the UT Tyler Friends of the Arts Committee.

The Spences' contributions to the University included sponsoring a professorship and an endowed scholarship in their names. They also contributed to the construction of the Cowan Center.



— courtesy photo
tion of the Cowan Fine Arts Center.

t auditorium on campus, seats 2,000 for performances at Cowan



— by Joe McArthur

hn Auditorium has housed variety of events such as musicals, symphonies and commencements.

iversity of Texas Medical
1 at Galveston. He retired
2 after 50 years as a physi-

is a wonderful person. He
me to talk to his patients
ey were his friends," said
Motes, a former nurse who
orks for the Vaughn foun-

ation. Vaughn served on the
TJC Board of Trustees for 40
years and many buildings on
that campus carry his name - the
Vaughn Library and Bonna Bess
Vaughn Conservatory to name
just two.

Vaughn contributed to the
Cowan Center when he learned

there was a need for more funds,
foundation worker Priscilla
Zeppa said.

The donation built the auditori-
um and stage, which occupies 40
percent of the Cowan Center. The
stage alone encompasses 5,800
square feet - more than a profes-
sional basketball court.

Jack And Dorothy Fay White Lobby offers comfort, artwork to Cowan Center visitors

by Cindy Jo Funderburk
Staff Writer

To many patrons, the Cowan Center lobby may just be a lobby. But to those who take time to observe their surroundings, the lobby is a place of comfort and art.

Named in honor of Jack and Dorothy Fay White, the foyer offers an inviting place to chat with friends before and after Vaughn Auditorium events.

The University also uses the lobby for job fairs and freshman orientation.

"She was a beautiful person inside and out."

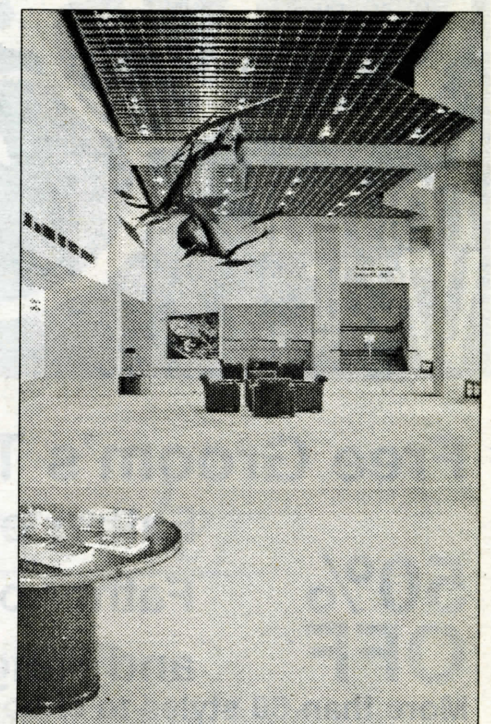
— FRIEND OF DOROTHY FAY WHITE

Until her death on Aug. 22, Mrs. White was an active member of the Tyler community, especially in the realm of education.

"She was a beautiful person inside and out," said a friend, who attended church with Mrs. White.

Mrs. White lived in the Tyler area most of her life, graduating from Tyler High School, Tyler Junior College and The University of Texas at Austin. She was a member of the UT Tyler Friends of the Arts, Smith County Historical Society and the Development Council of Tyler Junior College Foundation.

The Whites' contributions to education include donations for the White



— by Joe McArthur

The foyer of Vaughn Auditorium is named in honor of Jack and Dorothy Fay White.

Administrative Services Center on the TJC campus.

UT Tyler named the Whites Patriots of the Year for 1989-90. TJC presented Mrs. White with the Distinguished Alumna Award in 1996.

Summers Tennis Center provides room for recreational activity

by Harold Wilson
Staff Writer

In its heyday, the Summers Tennis Center courts provided a home to the National Athletic Intercollegiate Association champions.

University administrators, however, cut the team program for financial reasons in 1997,

leaving the center primarily for intramural and recreational activity.

The center also promotes city recreational tennis programs and high school tournaments.

"Tyler is a big tennis town," tennis center Director Ken Olivier said. "There is a lot of tennis activity (still) here."

Now, just three years later administrators are reconsidering reviving and expanding

intercollegiate sports including the Patriots' tennis team.

If approved, the University could field both men's and women's tennis teams as early as the fall of 2001 - a plan that places the 14-year-old tennis facility back in center court.

Dick and Betty Summers donated funds for the center, which was dedicated in September of 1986.

The Summers' gift enabled the University to construct three extra courts along with a building to serve coaches and players. It contains offices, a meeting room, a maintenance area, storage rooms and restrooms.

The center itself is located on the southeastern end of the campus next to the intramural soccer and softball fields.

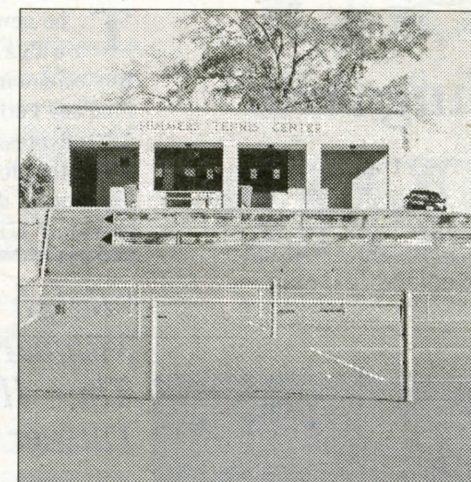
It rests on top of a hill at an angle above the ground-level courts.

"Having a center like this really gives students a lot of pride in their school," former University tennis coach Fred Kniffen told the student newspaper shortly after the center opened. The center's arrangement and landscape provide an overhead view of the courts from the building's office.

"It was planned that way. Mrs. Summers and I worked with administration and the designers and everyone agreed that this site was a natural for the building," Kniffen said in that same interview.

With the center in place, the University stopped using outside facilities and began playing host to its own tournaments.

While tennis was still a school-sponsored



— by Joe McArthur

The center provides facilities for University students as well as offers courts for the community and high school tournaments.

"Having a center like this really gives students a lot of pride in their school."

— FRED KNIFFEN, FORMER COACH

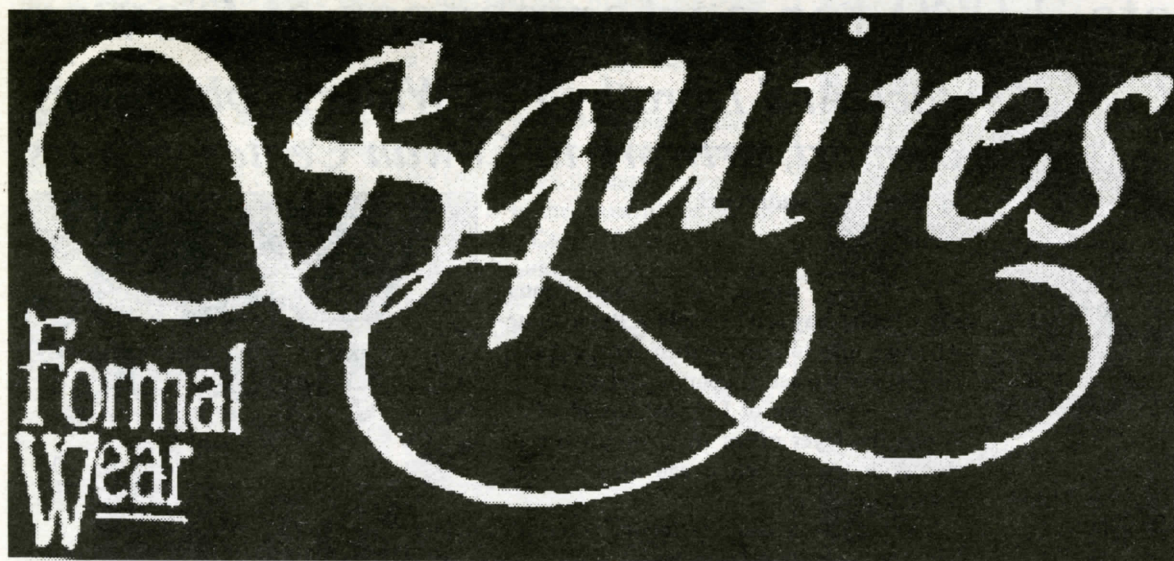
sport, some tournaments took place on campus including the United States Tennis Association's Satellite Circuit.

By 2003, officials hope the tennis center will have a new neighbor - a physical education building now in the design stage.



— by Joe McArthur

The center was dedicated in 1986. Construction was funded by Dick and Betty Summers.



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Three families donated land for University, building honors them

by Amber Lee
Staff Writer

For three Tyler families, bricks and mortar built more than just a science and mathematics building at the University. They created a concrete commitment to higher education.

Dedicated on June 10, 1976, the Hudnall-Pirtle-Roosth building at what was then known as Texas Eastern University became the first structure to be named after its financial supporters.

The families of geologists J.S. Hudnall and George W. Pirtle and oilman Isadore Roosth each donated one-third of the undeveloped land for what now is the University of Texas at Tyler campus.

Their donation not only supported higher education but also represented a sincere desire to improve East Texas, family members said.

"Education was always important to my grandfather and to his partner, Mr. Hudnall," Pirtle's grandson, Robert Pirtle, said.

"Education was always important to my grandfather."

— ROBERT PIRTLE

Hudnall's grandson, Chris Hudnall, said his grandfather did not have a lot of money growing up, so he wanted to make sure everyone had a chance for a quality education.

"He did anything he could for the kids," he said.

Hudnall earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky in 1921 and continued with graduate work at Pennsylvania State College and postgraduate studies at the University of Chicago.

Pirtle, his business partner of 40 years, earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky in 1924 and his master's degree a year later.

Both men have been named to that university's Hall of Distinguished Alumni.

Roosth graduated from Texas A&M in 1934. His son, Sam Roosth of Roosth-Genecov Rentals, said his father's contribution to the University was part of a dream to see the area prosper.

"[It was] really important for this area to have a four-year university or at least those junior-senior years," Sam Roosth said.

He said an upper-level university meant area students would not have to commute or relocate after graduating from local junior colleges such as Tyler Junior College.

"He dreamed of this part of East Texas . . . becoming a better place to live," he said.

Hudnall and Pirtle also contributed time and resources to other educational projects such as the Hudnall Planetarium and the George W. Pirtle Technology Center located on the TJC campus.

Roosth also supported the University of Texas Health Center at Tyler. Sam Roosth said that although his father did not live to see it, he dreamed the facility would one day become a teaching institution.

His father also was instrumental in helping Texas Eastern University become a part of the UT System.

"To be associated with the University of Texas system was a dream come true," Sam Roosth said.

He said the donation by the Roosth-Genecov family was a joint effort, and it should be underscored that many people gave their support and resources to seeing higher education prosper in East Texas.

Chris Hudnall and Sam Roosth said their families' contributions to the University mean a great deal to their respective families.

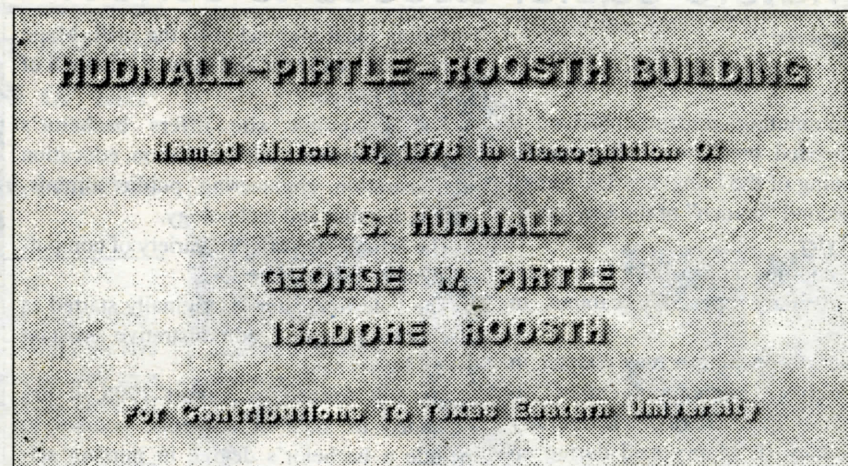
Chris Hudnall said his family works hard and "knows education is very important" because of his grandfather's example.

Sam Roosth said his father's work gives his family a sense of pride and motivates him to continue his efforts to make the community a better place to live.

Like his father, he believes education is the key to success for East Texas.

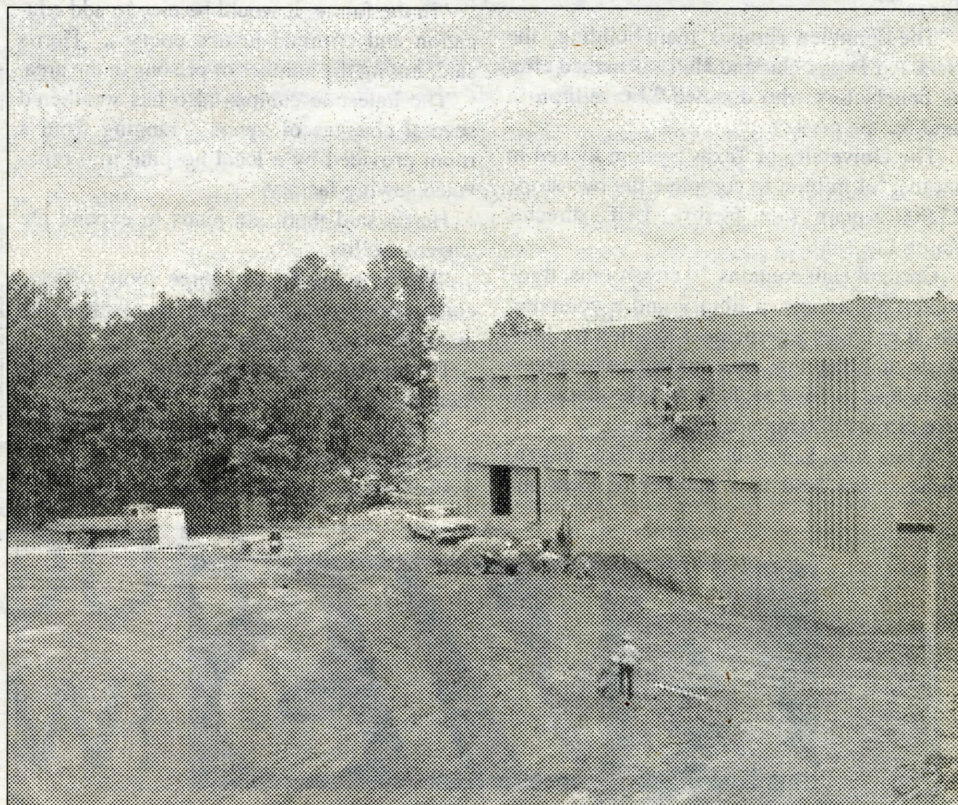
Robert Pirtle agrees.

"Tyler can be proud to have a fine educational institution," he said.



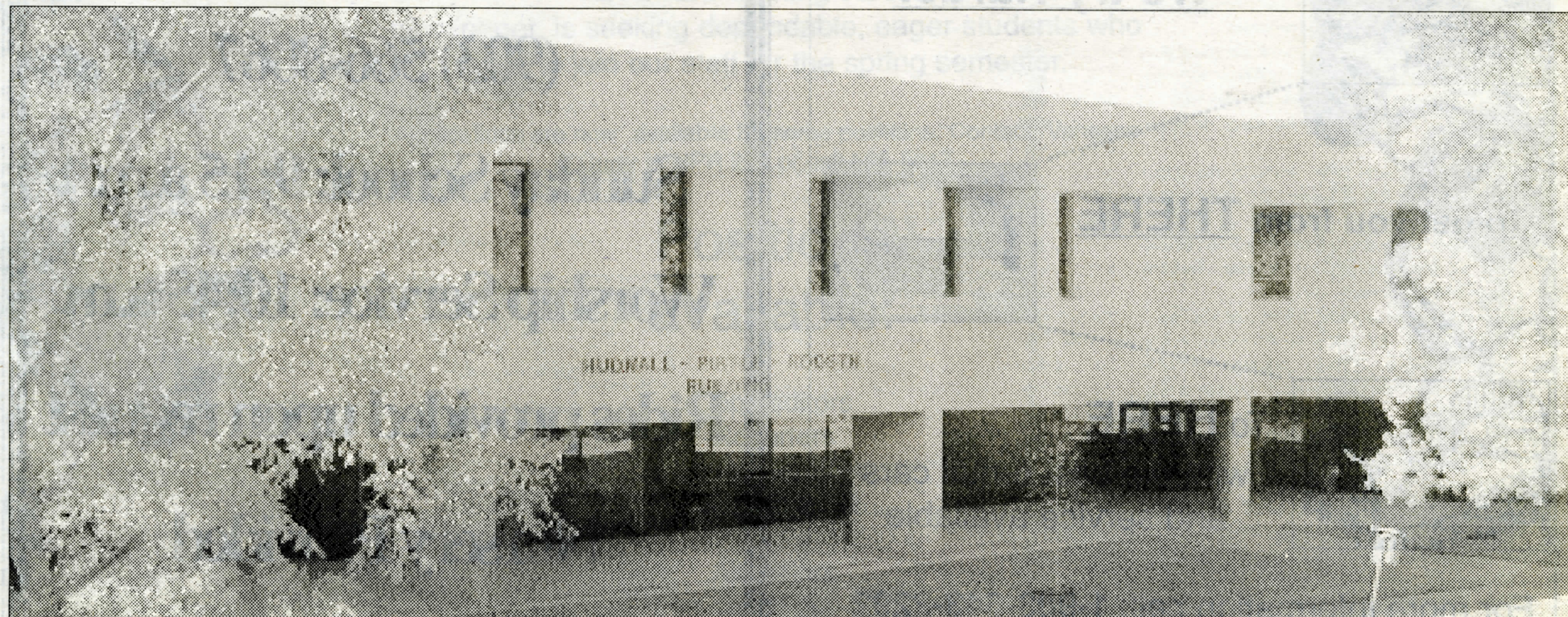
— courtesy photo

The plaque is located on the outside of the HPR Building. It acknowledges the three families responsible for its construction.



— courtesy photo

The HPR Building was the first structure on campus to be named after its supporters.



— by Joe McArthur

The Hudnall-Pirtle-Roosth Building was dedicated June 10, 1976 for the Texas Eastern University, as the University was formerly known. TEU became part of the UT System in 1979.

Longview, Palestine campuses give commuters easier access to school

by Aaron Roberts
Staff Writer

Some commuting students received a much needed break this fall semester with the opening of the Longview University Center, the second "branch" of the University of Texas at Tyler.

The new addition comes just five years after the University opened a campus in Palestine.

"Today we are opening a new chapter in providing public higher education in Longview and East Texas," University President Rodney H. Mabry said during an October dedication ceremony. "Education is the primary key to success and higher education is the key component to advancing the economy and quality of life here in East Texas."

The Longview campus' main building - the Neal and Peggy Garland Hall - is named after its benefactors who donated \$1.6 million in land for the project.

The University of Texas System kicked in another \$4 million to complete the two-story, 25,000 square foot facility, LUC director Karen Lee said.

Garland Hall contains 10 classrooms, three conference rooms, a library and a computer lab. It provides a permanent location for hundreds of Longview area students who previously had to drive to Tyler to take classes or take classes in temporary facilities.

When the Longview University began, classes were held in a number of locations

including local high schools, the mall, Maud Cobb Activity Center and even at a branch of Kilgore College.

The Longview site offers bachelor's degrees in business administration, education administration, engineering, public administration, nursing and technology.

The school also offers a variety of computer science courses, Lee said.

The Palestine campus originally started as a school for nursing, administrative assistant Susan Harris said.

Since it opened in August 1995, it has expanded its slate of academic courses to include a bachelor's degree in nursing science, a series of business courses and the entire master's program in nursing, she said.

The campus offers 49 different courses, all of which are interactive television courses.

"In the future, it would be nice to add education and criminal justice courses," Harris said, noting the number of prisons in the area.

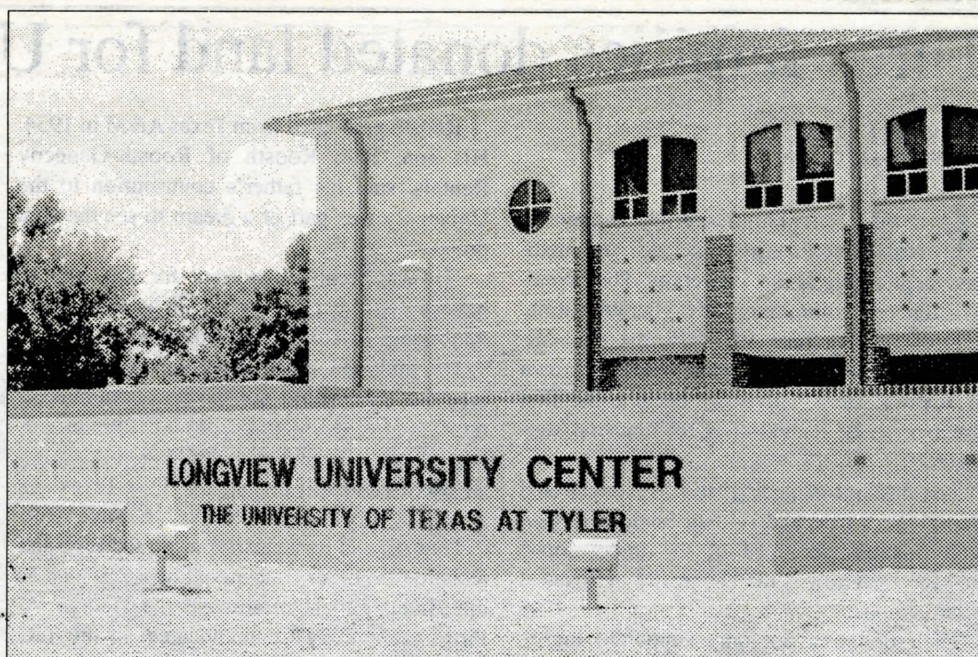
The Palestine campus also has weathered several changes of venue - ranging from a room provided by a local hospital to a renovated sewing factory.

Harris said there are plans to expand the current facility.

"We're going to add three more offices, conference rooms, a health assessment lab and a library," she said.

Despite its small size, Harris stressed the facility's value.

"I think this is an important asset for the community and UT Tyler," she said. "This reaches out to a whole other group of people."



— courtesy photo

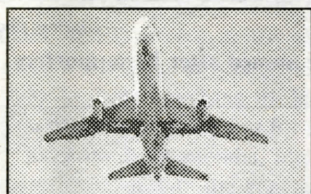
The \$5.6 million Longview University Center opened this semester offering a variety of degrees to commuting students.



— courtesy photo

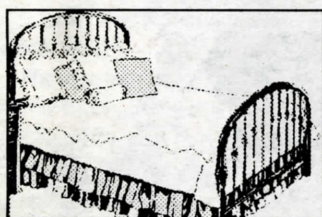
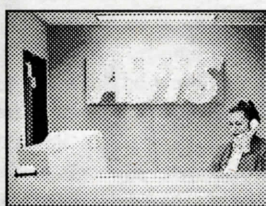
The University opened a campus at Palestine in Aug. 1995.

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Riter Millennium Bell Tower to be completed February

by Fred Beam
Staff Writer

When it is completed in February, the Riter Millennium Bell Tower will be the

largest of its kind in Texas and the 15th largest in America.

The defining factor is its 57 bells - one more than the bell tower at the University of Texas at Austin, Regent A. W. "Dub" Riter Jr. said.

Riter and his family donated \$1.3 million to construct the bell tower on the Tyler campus in front of the Hudnall-Pirtle-Roosth building.

"This is being done primarily as a reflection of what we think is the important way to set a symbol on the campus for the future," Riter said. "We hope that the tower, by virtue of the quality of the tower, will reflect the quality of UT Tyler academically. Having a high-quality institution academically is exactly what UT Austin would have us to be."

Construction began this fall on the tower, which will be 88 feet tall or 10 stories high and tall enough to be seen over the trees, Riter said.

Four identical clocks, each eight feet in diameter, will be placed on each side, 72 feet above the ground, project manager Jim Verdin said.

Verdin is the fifth-generation owner of the Verdin Company, the oldest carillon and clock tower company in the United States.

"The clocks will be exact replicas of the clocks that were in Tyler's old courthouse, which we had installed back in the 1930s," Verdin said.

The tower will have 57 clear-tone bronze bells made in the Netherlands.

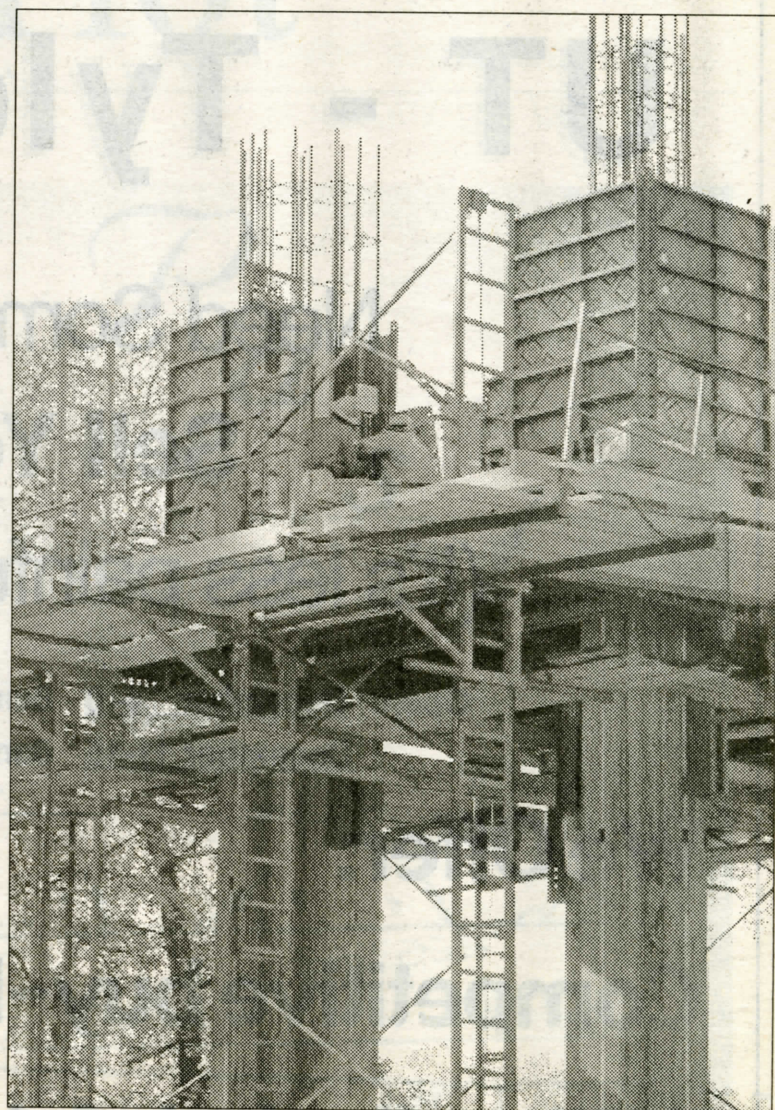
The largest bell weighs about 2,000 pounds and will bear an inscription about the Riter family.

The bells can be played from an electronic keyboard in the Administration Building or a portable keyboard. They can be played by an individual or programmed to play on a select schedule, Verdin said.

"We expect it will attract musicians from all over the nation and the world wanting to play the bells," President Rodney H. Mabry said.

"It certainly would be great at the Christmas season of course," Riter said.

The bell tower will be centered in a 196-foot circular plaza featuring walkway, benches and landscaping.



— by Joe McArthur

The Riter Millennium Bell Tower is currently under construction by RPR Construction Co. and should be completed by February 2001.

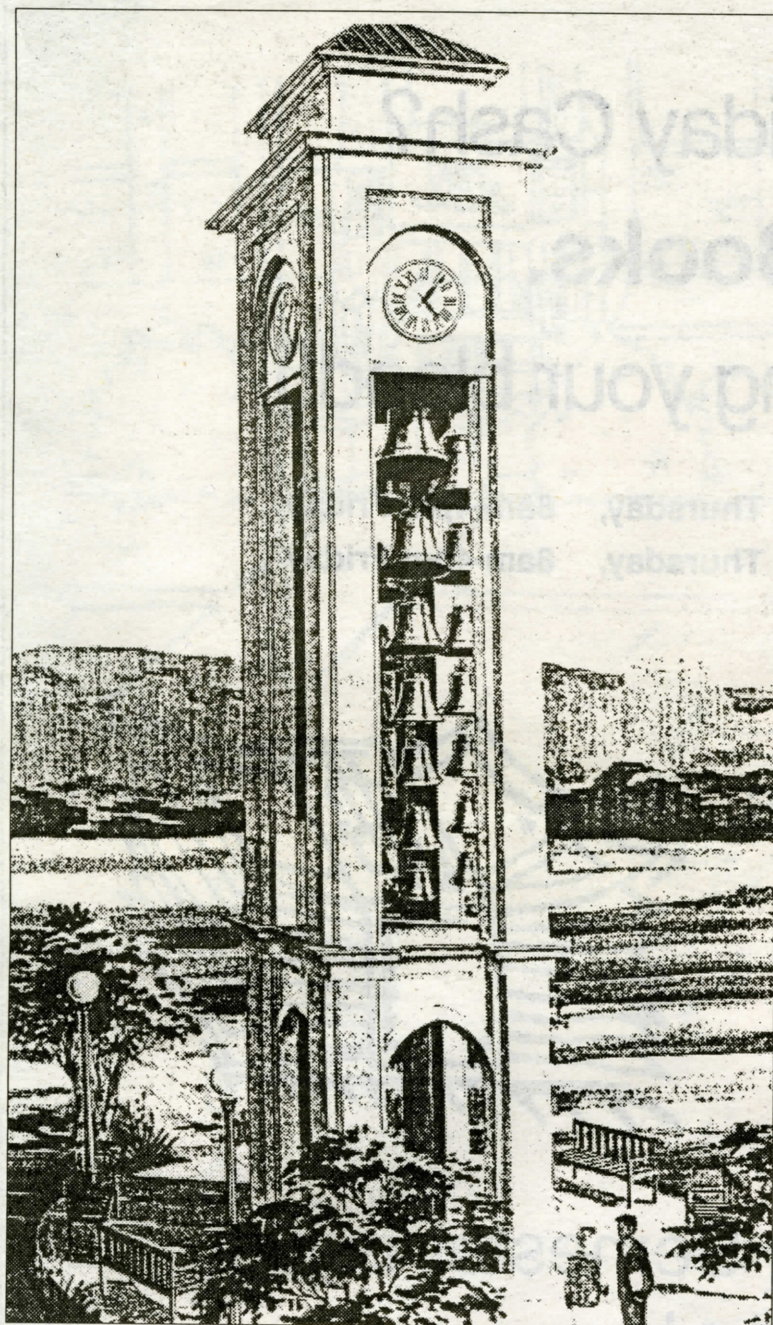
"We hope to create a place where students could gather . . . simply for them to get together to relax between classes and know that this was sort of a focal point on campus for them," Riter said.

Riter and his family have been UT System supporters for many years.

Riter and his wife, B.J. Riter, graduated from the University of Texas at Austin.

They have made donations to the UT Tyler Presidential Scholarship Program, the George F. Hamm Endowed Chair in Arts and Humanities and for the Cowan Center.

Mrs. Riter is a member of the UT Patriot Golf Classic Associate Ambassadors as well as the UT Tyler Friends of the Arts organization.



artist rendition

The Riter Millennium Bell Tower was funded by Regent A.W. Riter.

More projects to come in campus master plan

by Erica Tecce and Will Johnson
Staff Writers

After completing construction on the Spence Plaza this summer, workers have moved on to two more campus projects while University administrators pursue funding for a third.

The construction projects are part of a Master Plan being updated as University administrators attempt to foresee students' needs for the next 20 to 30 years.

The current Master Plan is 20 years old and must be upgraded to "reflect existing thought," Scott Scarborough, vice president of business affairs, said.

Construction of the Riter Millennium Bell Tower - a record-setting structure officials say will be the campus focal point - is expected to be completed in February.

The concrete pillars eventually will help support 57 bells in a tower located in front of the Hudnall-Pirtle Roosth Building.

Surveyors also are preparing to map out a campus site for the \$19.3 million physical education building on the eastern part of the campus.

The facility will include several rooms for recreational sports, fitness equipment, an outdoor swimming pool and teaching facilities for the health and kinesiology department.

Construction is set to begin sometime next year and be completed in 2003.

University officials also are working to secure funding for a new nursing school building and a facility for the school's engineering disciplines.

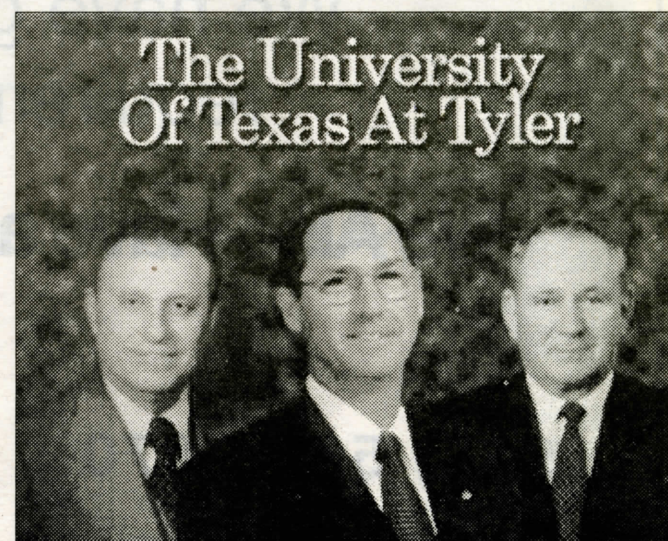
The University of Texas Board of Regents approved funding for the new nursing building during a November meeting.

Nursing is the only academic program consistently turning away applicants due to high demand, officials said.

Dallas Urban Group is responsible for reworking the Master Plan, which as of November was only 95 percent complete, Scarborough said.

The Master Plan includes a proposed Alumni Center and an Interfaith Center. Beyond the five-year outlook, there are plans to renovate the campus library, the University Center and possibly construct a student dining hall.

Scarborough said the project would be funded mostly in one of three ways: the UT System Permanent University Fund, student tuition bonds, or private donations.



— courtesy photo

Left: Dr. James H. Stewart, president 1972-1981.
Center: Dr. Rodney H. Mabry 1998-present.
Right: Dr. George F. Hamm 1981-1997.

Read about Cowan Center on Page 6-7

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